

REMARKS

Examiner Jagan is thanked for the courtesies extended during the office interview on July 14, 2004 and the telephone interview on July 22, 2004 wherein the attached amendments were discussed and wherein Examiner Jagan agreed that amended Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 23, and thus the dependent claims therefrom, appear to overcome the rejections over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,741,627 to Fukui et al., the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 03108321 to Takagi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,457,633 to Andrews, and the rejection of Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,709,476 to Wu et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,991,652 to Barthelemy et al. is hereby requested.

As stated in the Office Action, Claims 2-15, 17-20 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 7, 12, 17 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 24-30 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 24 is allowable over the applied prior art and, thus, so are dependent Claims 25-30.

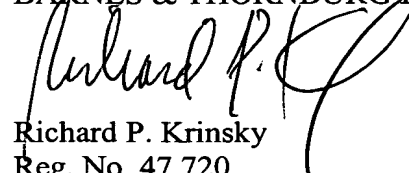
In view of the above, Claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance and such is hereby requested.

In view of all of the above, this application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (20341/72037).

Respectfully submitted,

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